

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH JULIO SCHERER GARCIA

1. I SAW SCHERER GARCIA AT A DINNER PARTY AUGUST 12 IN A PRIVATE HOME, THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE THE JULY 8 EXCELSIOR "COUP". THE ESSENTIALLY FAMILY GATHERING CONSISTED MAINLY OF SOCIAL CONVERSATION, INCLUDING MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE COUSINSHIP BETWEEN SCHERER AND LOPEZ PORTILLO AND THEIR SINCE CHILDHOOD FRIENDSHIP. ALSO PARTICIPATING WAS ANOTHER MUTUAL COUSIN, ENRIQUE MAZA, A JESUIT AND FORMER EXCELSIOR COLUMNIST. IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING I MANAGED TO HAVE A BRIEF, PRIVATE WORD WITH SCHERER.

2. PLANS OF THE "OLD" EXCELSIO GROUP

SCHERER CONFIRMED THAT THE OUSTED GROUP DOES PLAN TO ESTABLISH A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FIRST AND THEN A NEWSPAPER. COMMENT: THE MECHANICS OF LAUNCHING SUCH ENTERPRISES WILL PROBABLY MEAN THAT WHATEVER APPROVAL OR LICENSE NEEDED FROM THE GOM WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SOUGHT UNTIL AFTER LOPEZ PORTILLO TAKES OFFICE.

3. SCHERER'S PERSONAL PLANS

I ASKED SCHERER IF THERE WERE ANY TRUTH TO RUMOS THAT

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HE WAS BEING RECRUITED TO WORK FOR THE EL SOL CHAIN OF

NEWSPAPERS, IN WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE, HAS ACQUIRED A MAJOR INTEREST. SCHERER CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED WITH SUCH AN OFFER BY MARIO VAZQUEZ RANA, THE MEXICAN BUSINESSMAN (AND PRESIDENT OF MEXICAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE) WHO HANDLED THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE TAKEOVER OF EL SOL AND EL UNIVERSAL ON ECHEVERRIA'S BEHALF.

4. SCHERER'S REACTION TO THE OFFER, APPARENTLY MADE NOT LONG AFTER HIS OUSTER, WAS STILL EMOTIONAL - "I WOULD NEVER DO THAT* I WOULD NEVER WORK FOR THOSE PEOPLE* I'M NOT A PROSTITUTE*"

5. SCHERER ALSO SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE EXCELSIOR AFFAIR HIS LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED.

6. RUMOS ABOUT LOPEZ PORTILLO ASSASSINATION

THIS LAST REMARK GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALLUDE TO THE ATTEMPT TO EITHER ASSASSINATE OR KIDNAP LOPEZ PORTILLO'S SISTER AND ASK IF SCHERER SAW TROUBLE AHEAD IN THE FOUR MONTHS BEFORE LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE. SCHERER SAID "I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT, YES, I'M AFRAID I DO SEE TROUBLE, INCLUDIG POSSIBLE TROUBLE FOR LOPEZ PORTILLO; ECHEVERRIA IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING."

7. COMMENT:

SCHERER AT THIS POINT IN PARTICULAR IS NOT AN OBJECTIVE COMMENTATOR AND HE IS AN EMOTIONAL PERSON AT ANY TIME. NONETHELESS, HE TOO GIVES SOME CREDENCE TO THE CURRENT ASSASSINATION RUMORS, EVEN THOUGH THE "BANANA REPUBLIC" IMPLICATIONS FOR MEXICO OBVIOUSLY INJURE HIS MEXICAN PRIDE.
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